

**LUNENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2010
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

School Committee

David Reif, Chair

Michael Mackin

Jason Poitras

Milree Keeling

Donna White

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Elizabeth Broden

Guests

Susan Diamantopoulos, students

Karen Martin, Christine Bonci

* Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

* Chairman's Report

* Review and Approve Minutes

- April 14, 2010 workshop minutes – Dr. Reif approved the minutes as written.
- April 14, 2010 regular session minutes – Dr. Reif approved the minutes as written.

* Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.

* Superintendent's Report

- Community Service Learning – Student Presentations
Superintendent Calmes introduced third grade teacher, Susan Diamantopoulos, who was present with some of her students to present their Empty Bowl Project. Ms. Diamantopoulos introduced the other third grade teachers in attendance, as well as Christine Bonci and Karen Martin; she also thanked Karyn Giuliani and Lori MacDougall for the assistance they provided to the students. Ms. Diamantopoulos gave a brief history on the empty bowl project and the grassroots effort to end world hunger. Several students read letters, sang songs and read poems about why it's important to give to others, specifically Haiti in this case. Superintendent Calmes gave additional information around community service learning and how it relates to our mission.
- Ms. Karen Martin announced that the Great Books Foundation has asked the Lunenburg schools to participate in a model school project. We will be provided with the new material for students and teachers. They will also provide us with professional development and consultation. This is a two-year commitment. Ms. Martin will be the site coordinator. We need to commit \$5,000 per year to help defray the cost. The value of the materials we receive will be approximately \$10,400. The value of the consultation services is about \$20,000. Our stimulus funds, as well as teacher quality grant funds, will be used for the \$5,000.
- The Special Olympics event was held last Friday at Fitchburg State College. Congratulations to all the athletes. Thank you to the Best Buddies.

- * Student Report – Ms. Broden reported that most of the best buddies were able to attend the Special Olympics on Friday. She also reported that three LHS students received awards at the Elizabeth Haskins Math Competition at Fitchburg State College.

- * Public Comment

- Mr. Poitras commented on the empty bowl project and how wonderful it is that the students are thinking globally.
 - Mr. Mackin commented on this being Ms. Keeling's final meeting after nine years of service on the school committee. Ms. Keeling, in turn, thanked Mr. Mackin for three years of service to the students of the school district.
 - Town elections are scheduled for May 15. There is also a track meet that day with dozens of schools from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- * New Business

- Action

- a. School Choice – Superintendent Calmes reviewed this year's school choice numbers. For FY11, she recommended opening one kindergarten slot for a sibling of a current choice student, as well as six school choice slots at grade 9. We anticipate 16 of our grade 8 students will go to Monty Tech for FY11. Also, with regard to seniors at LHS, if any of them move during their senior year, they will be allowed to remain at the high school until graduation. Ms. Keeling moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. There was discussion around enrollment numbers and historical trends. Vote: unanimous.

- * Old Business

- Discussion

- a. FY11 Budget Update – Yesterday was our annual portfolio celebration, which was held on a professional development day. Superintendent Calmes spoke briefly about the cutbacks that are in place for the FY11 school year. All categories of employees were affected. Schedules and changes are still being finalized. Mr. Mackin thanked Superintendent Calmes for her efforts in this very difficult budget year. Ms. Keeling thanked the community members who attended Town Meeting.
 - b. Shirley Non-resident Agreement – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the proposed non-resident agreement with the town of Shirley. With regard to Shirley residents currently enrolled in LHS, who have a sibling in grade 6, 7, or 8, the sibling will be allowed to attend LHS. Transportation will not be guaranteed to the younger sibling once the current Shirley high school student no longer attends LHS. Superintendent Calmes reviewed the base tuition costs through FY13. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Ms. Keeling moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.
 - c. Opt-Out Policy Discussion – Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone about this highly politicized, controversial issue that occurred several months ago around the president addressing all students via television and parents wanting their children not to watch the program. There was discussion around whether there should or should not have been an option for the students to opt out. There was also discussion around the controversial speaker policy.

- * Public Comment – None.

- * Reports

- Regional Planning Committee: Ms. Keeling reported that the Regional Planning Committee took action to extend an invitation in writing to the school committee of the North Middlesex Regional School District to discuss and possibly act to plan a unified regional planning board. The vote was unanimous.

- * Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion
 - complete foreign exchange student policy discussion
 - bus transportation
- * Executive Session - None.
- * Adjournment – At 8:24 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to adjourn regular session. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/22/27/mel